

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of generating a disposable email address comprising:

constructing a disposable email address by including a hostname domain, a username, a domain tag, and a passcode, wherein the username identifies a user owning the disposable email address at the hostname domain and the domain tag identifies an email sender domain to which the disposable email address is to be given for use in forwarding email from the sender domain to the user at the hostname domain; and

selecting by the user the passcode for the disposable email address using a user chosen algorithm of a plurality of passcode validation algorithms provided to the user.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting occurs on-the-fly by the user without preregistering or pre storing the disposable email address, and wherein the method further comprises storing the user chosen algorithm of the plurality of passcode validation algorithms for use in verification of the disposable email address when received with an email.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising repeating the generating of a disposable email address for a plurality of sender domains to produce a plurality of disposable email addresses, and wherein the method further comprises allowing the user to select unique disposable email addresses for different sender domains, the unique disposable email addresses having different domain tags and different passcodes.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising allowing the user to change the user chosen algorithm of the plurality of passcode validation algorithms when selecting passcodes for different disposable email addresses.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the disposable email address has the form mailboxID@hostname, and wherein mailboxID includes the username, the domain tag and the passcode, and the hostname is the hostname domain.

6. A method of constructing and processing a disposable email address having a hostname domain, a username, a domain tag and a passcode, the method comprising:

(i) generating a disposable email address by the user and forwarding the disposable email address to a sender domain, wherein a domain tag in the disposable email address identifies the sender domain to which the disposable email address is forwarded, and wherein the generating comprises selecting by the user a passcode for the disposable email address using a user chosen algorithm of a plurality of passcode validation algorithms provided to the user by a disposable address system;

(ii) determining whether the disposable email address associated with an email received at the disposable address system is valid, and if so delivering the email to a user at the hostname domain owning the disposable email address;

(iii) noting by the user that the email associated with the disposable email address comprises an unsolicited mass email and informing the disposable address system that the disposable email address has been compromised; and

(iv) indicating revocation of the compromised disposable email address at the disposable address system to prevent future emails with that disposable email address from being forwarded to the user by the disposable address system.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising offering by the disposable address system to warn one or more senders who received the disposable email address from the user that the disposable email address has been compromised.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising identifying by the disposable address system a sender domain that previously sent email to the compromised disposable email address, and offering to mass revoke other disposable email addresses that accompanied email sent from that sender domain and that are owned by the user or other users at the hostname domain.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the determining (ii) comprises extracting by the disposable address system a username, a domain tag, and a passcode from the disposable email address, and checking to determine whether the username has been predefined to the disposable address system, and if not, rejecting the email.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising determining by the disposable address system whether the disposable email address has been previously recorded at the disposable address system, and if not, determining whether the passcode is valid by employing a stored, user chosen passcode algorithm of a plurality of passcode validation algorithms defined to the user, and if the passcode is not valid, rejecting the email, otherwise recording the disposable email address at the disposable address system and delivering the email to the user.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein if the disposable address system determines that the disposable email address has been previously recorded, then the method further comprises determining by the disposable address system whether the disposable email address has been revoked, and if so, quarantining the email as a possible unsolicited mass email, otherwise delivering the email to the user.

12. The method of claim 6, further comprising proposing, by the disposable address system, to warn legitimate sender domains previously receiving the disposable email address from the user that the disposable email address has been revoked, and providing the user with a list of sender domains previously receiving the disposable email address.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising selecting by the user a subset of sender domains from the list of sender domains provided by the disposable address system, and creating by the user a new disposable email address for the subset of sender domains.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising validating at the disposable address system the new disposable email address created by the user employing a user chosen passcode validation algorithm of a plurality of passcode validation algorithms defined to the user.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising forwarding the new disposable email address to the subset of sender domains selected by the user.

16. The method of claim 6, further comprising determining by the disposable address system a list of sender domains previously receiving the disposable email address and offering to mass revoke other disposable email addresses associated with email received from one or more sender domains in the list.

17. A system for generating a disposable email address comprising:

means for constructing a disposable email address as including a hostname domain, a username, a domain tag, and a passcode, wherein the username identifies a user owning the disposable email address at the hostname domain and the domain tag identifies an email sender domain to which the disposable email address is to be given for use in forwarding email from the sender domain to the user at the hostname domain; and

means for selecting by the user the passcode for the disposable email address using a user chosen algorithm of a plurality of passcode validation algorithms provided to the user.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the means for selecting occurs on-the-fly by the user without preregistering or prestoring the disposable email address, and wherein the system further comprises means for storing the user chosen algorithm of the plurality of passcode validation algorithms for use in verification of the disposable email address when received with an email.

19. The system of claim 17, further comprising means for repeating the generating of a disposable email address for a plurality of sender domains to produce a plurality of disposable email addresses, and wherein the system further comprises means for allowing the user to select unique disposable email addresses for different sender domains, the unique disposable email addresses having different domain tags and different passcodes.

20. The system of claim 19, further comprising means for allowing the user to change the user chosen algorithm of the plurality of passcode validation algorithms when selecting passcodes for different disposable email addresses.

21. A system for constructing and processing a received disposable email address having a hostname domain, a username, a domain tag and a passcode, the system comprising:

(i) means for generating a disposable email address by the user and forwarding the disposable email address to a sender domain, wherein a domain tag in the disposable email address identifies the sender domain to which the disposable email address is forwarded, and wherein the means for generating comprises means for selecting by the user a passcode for the disposable email address using a user chosen algorithm of a plurality of passcode validation algorithms provided to the user by a disposable address system;

(ii) means for determining whether the disposable email address associated with an email received at the disposable address system is valid, and if so for delivering the email to a user at the hostname domain owning the disposable email address;

(iii) means for identifying by the user that the email associated with the disposable email address comprises an unsolicited mass email and for informing the disposable address system that the disposable email address has been compromised; and

(iv) means for indicating revocation of the compromised disposable email address at the disposable address system to prevent future emails with that disposable email address from being forwarded to the user by the disposable address system.

22. The system of claim 21, further comprising means for offering by the disposable address system to warn one or more senders who received the disposable email address from the user that the disposable email address has been compromised.

23. The system of claim 21, further comprising means for identifying by the disposable address system a sender domain that previously sent email to the compromised disposable email address, and for offering to mass revoke other disposable email addresses that accompanied email sent from that sender domain and that are owned by the user or other users at the hostname domain.

24. The system of claim 21, further comprising means for determining by the disposable address system whether the disposable email address has been previously recorded at the disposable address system, and if not, for determining whether the passcode is valid by employing a stored, user chosen passcode algorithm of a plurality of passcode validation algorithms defined to the user, and if the passcode is not valid, for rejecting the email, otherwise recording the disposable email address at the disposable address system and delivering the email to the user.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein if the disposable address system determines that the disposable email address has been previously recorded, then the system further comprises means for determining by the disposable address system whether the disposable email address has been revoked, and if so, for quarantining the email as a possible unsolicited mass email, otherwise delivering the email to the user.

26. The system of claim 21, further comprising means for proposing, by the disposable address system, to warn legitimate sender domains previously receiving the disposable email address from the user that the disposable email address has been revoked, and for providing the user with a list of sender domains previously receiving the disposable email address.

27. The system of claim 26, further comprising means for selecting by the user a subset of sender domains from the list of sender domains provided by the disposable address system, and for creating by the user a new disposable email address for the subset of sender domains, and forwarding the new disposable email address to the subset of sender domains selected by the user.

28. The system of claim 21, further comprising means for determining by the disposable address system a list of sender domains previously receiving the disposable email address and for offering to mass revoke other disposable email addresses associated with email received from one or more sender domains in the list.

29. At least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of generating a disposable email address, the method comprising:

constructing a disposable email address by including a hostname domain, a username, a domain tag, and a passcode, wherein the username identifies a user owning the disposable email address at the hostname domain and the domain tag identifies an email sender domain to which the disposable email address is to be given for use in forwarding email from the sender domain to the user at the hostname domain; and

selecting by the user, the passcode for the disposable email address using a user chosen algorithm of a plurality of passcode validation algorithms provided to the user.

30. The at least one program storage device of claim 29, wherein the selecting occurs on-the-fly by the user without preregistering or prestoring the disposable email address, and wherein the method further comprises storing the user chosen algorithm of the plurality of passcode validation algorithms for use in verification of the disposable email address when received with an email.

31. The at least one program storage device of claim 30, further comprising repeating the generating of a disposable email address for a plurality of sender domains to produce a plurality of disposable email addresses, and wherein the method further comprises allowing the user to select unique disposable email addresses for different sender domains, the unique disposable email addresses having different domain tags and different passcodes.

32. At least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of processing a received disposable email address having a hostname domain, a username, a domain tag and a passcode, the method comprising:

(i) generating a disposable email address by the user and forwarding the disposable email address to a sender domain, wherein a domain tag in the disposable email address identifies the sender domain to which the disposable email address is forwarded, and wherein the generating comprises selecting by the user a passcode for the disposable email address using a user chosen algorithm of a plurality of passcode validation algorithms provided to the user by a disposable address system;

(ii) determining whether the disposable email address associated with an email received at the disposable address system is valid, and if so delivering the email to a user at the hostname domain owning the disposable email address;

(iii) noting by the user that the email associated with the disposable email address comprises an unsolicited mass email and informing the disposable address system that the disposable email address has been compromised; and

(iv) indicating revocation of the compromised disposable email address at the disposable address system to prevent future emails with that disposable email address from being forwarded to the user by the disposable address system.

33. The at least one program storage device of claim 32, further comprising offering by the disposable address system to warn one or more senders who received the disposable email address from the user that the disposable email address has been compromised.

34. The at least one program storage device of claim 32, further comprising identifying by the disposable address system a sender domain that previously sent email to the compromised disposable email address, and offering to mass revoke other disposable email addresses that accompanied email sent from that sender domain and that are owned by the user or other users at the hostname domain.

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